

REMARKS

Prior to this Reply, Claims 1-62 were pending. Through this Reply, Claims 24-50 have been cancelled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter contained therein.

Accordingly, Claims 1-23 and 51-62 are now at issue in the present case.

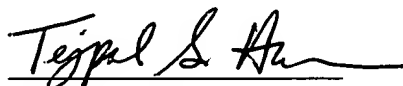
In the Office Action, the Examiner determined that the claims are directed to three patentably distinct species, namely: Species I, Fig. 5; Species II, Fig. 7; and, Species III, Fig. 9. Accordingly, the Examiner required Applicants to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits. Furthermore, the Examiner required Applicants to identify all claims that are readable on the elected species.

In response, Applicants elect Species I (Fig. 5) for prosecution on the merits. Applicants believe that Claims 1-23 and 51-62 are readable on the elected species. Accordingly, Applicants have cancelled Claims 24-50 without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter contained therein.

Applicants believe that no fees are due. Nevertheless, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-2198 for any fees associated with filing this paper.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number regarding any matters relating to the present application.

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

Claims 24-50 have been cancelled.